

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PHNOM 07046 01 OF 03 211514Z

51

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 OMB-01 AID-20 CIAE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 CU-04 NIC-01 EB-11 IO-14 ARA-16

IGA-02 COME-00 AGR-20 SWF-02 FRB-02 TRSE-00 DRC-01

/207 W

----- 106421

P R 211215Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6178

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL UDORN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION USUN

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PHNOM 07046 01 OF 03 211514Z

CINCPAC

CINCPACFLT
CINCUSARPAC
DIA WASHDC
CGFMFPAC
CGUSARSUPTHAI
CNO
COMNAVINTCOM
COMSEVENTHFLT
COMUSMACTHAI
7/13 AF
7TH PSYOPS
COMUSSAG
III MAF
CINCPACAF

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 PHNOM PENH 7046

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, MOPS, ECON, CB
SUBJECT: KHMER REPORT- MAY 21, 1974

GENERAL

1. WITH A GENERAL REDUCTION IN THE LEVEL AND INTENSITY OF BOTH FANK AND KC MILITARY ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK, THE SPOT-LIGHT SHIFTED TO STUDENT/TEACHER AGITATION IN PHNOM PENH. STUDENT/TEACHER ACTIVISTS GENERATED SOME NOISE AND CONCERN ON THE PART OF THE GKR THROUGH PRESS CONFERENCES AND DECLARATIONS CONDEMNING THE GOVERNMENT, BUT THEY DID NOT MOVE INTO THE STREETS. ALTHOUGH PREPARED FOR THE WORST, THE GKR GOT THROUGH THE TENSE PERIOD WITHOUT SECURITY PROBLEMS. ON THE MILITARY FRONT, FANK CONTINUED TO MAKE GOOD PROGRESS IN ITS NORTHWARD DRIVE ALONG ROUTE 5, AND THREE BARRIERS BLOCKING THE TONLE SAP RIVER WERE DESTROYED. FANK ALSO KEPT THE KC AT BAY AROUND PREY VENG AND DECISIVELY REPULSED COMMUNIST FORCES AT KOMPONG THOM. THE KC FOR THEIR PART CONTINUED TO CONSOLIDATE AND EXPAND THEIR CONTROL OVER MUCH OF THE SOUTHERN HALF OF ROUTE 4. TOURING GRUNK/FUNK LEADER KHIEU SAMPHAN RETURNED TO CHINA AFTER HIS TWO-MONTH, ELEVEN-NATION TOUR, WHILE SIHANOUK CONTINUED TO DENY RUMORS OF RIFTS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PHNOM 07046 01 OF 03 211514Z

WITHIN GRUNK/FUNK.

POLITICAL (INTERNAL)

2. RENEWED TEACHER-STUDENT ACTIVISM SAW A) THREE PRESS CONFERENCES DURING THE WEEK AT WHICH ACTIVIST LEADERS DENOUNCED GKR'S ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE; B) UNFURLING OF NEW ANTIGOVERNMENT BANNERS AT MAJOR LYCEES ON MAY 15 AND

C) A DECLARATION FROM THE KHMER TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION ON MAY 17 WHICH "WITHDREW CONFIDENCE" IN THE LONG BORET GOVERNMENT. NO ONE, HOWEVER, TOOK TO THE STREETS.

3. AT SEPARATE PRESS CONFERENCES ON MAY 14, 15, AND 21, MIXED TEACHERS' STRIKE COMMITTEE LEADER PEN MONIL, SECONDARY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION LEADER EA PORLY, AND KHMER UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT LOCH SOEUN SCORED THE LONG BORET GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE AND HAMMERED AT CORRUPTION. EA PORLY ALSO ANNOUNCED THE IMMINENT FORMATION OF AN "ENLARGED COMMITTEE" OF STUDENTS, TEACHERS, WORKERS AND MONKS WHICH WOULD DRAW UP AN ACTION PROGRAM FOR DEALING WITH CURRENT GRIEVANCES. RADICAL LEADER LOCH SOEUN, IN A FAIRLY LOW-KEY MANNER, EXPLAINED THAT STUDENTS SEEK A HALT TO PRICE RISES, WANT INCREASED MONTHLY STIPENDS FROM THE GOVERNMENT, AND OPPOSE THEIR INCORPORATION INTO THE MILITARY RESERVES. HE NOTED THAT STUDENTS DO NOT OPPOSE OBLIGATORY MILITARY SERVICE; THEY DO, HOWEVER, INSIST THAT THEY SHOULD BE ENABLED TO FINISH THEIR STUDIES BEFORE BEING CALLED UP. (COMMENT: THE LATTER IS A NON-ISSUE INASMUCH AS ALL CONSCRIPTION LEGISLATION TO DATE DEFERS BONA FIDE STUDENTS.)

4. THE MAY 17 DECLARATION BY THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE KHMER TEACHERS ASSOCIATION ASSERTED THAT LONG BORET'S GOVERNMENT HAD EXACERBATED RATHER THAN SOLVED ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES, GIVING THIS AS THE ASSOCIATION'S BASIS FOR WITHDRAWING CONFIDENCE IN HIM. THE DOCUMENT REPLAYED FAMILIAR TEACHER-STUDENT THEMES CASTIGATING GKR LEADERS AS INCOMPETENT SOWERS OF CORRUPTION, DISORDER AND FASCISM WHO ARE TIED IN WITH CHINESE BUSINESS INTERESTS AND SEEKING TO ENRICH THEMSELVES AT THE PEOPLE'S EXPENSE. THE TEACHERS APPEALED TO INTERNATIONAL OPINION TO UNDERSTAND AND SUPPORT THEIR POSITION.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 PHNOM 07046 01 OF 03 211514Z

5. FOR ITS PART, THE GKR BROUGHT ARMOR AND ADDITIONAL TROOPS INTO THE CAPITAL AND PUT THE GENDARMERIE NATIONALE ON FULL ALERT TO HANDLE POSSIBLE STREET DEMONSTRATIONS. THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF EDUCATION BROADCAST SEPARATE APPEALS FOR CALM AND ORDER. THE EDUCATION MINISTER DEMANDED THAT CLASSES SHOULD RESUME AND PROMISED APPROPRIATE PUNISHMENT FOR THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR INTERFERING WITH CLASSES. HE GAVE FULL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT TO SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS AND URGED THEM TO REPORT INDIVIDUALS WHO CREATED DISTURBANCES IN THEIR INSTITUTIONS. (COMMENT: AS OF MAY 21 CLASSES CONTINUE MUCH AS USUAL IN SOME LYCEES.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PHNOM 07046 02 OF 03 211526Z

51

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 OMB-01 AID-20 CIAE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 CU-04 NIC-01 EB-11 IO-14 ARA-16

IGA-02 COME-00 AGR-20 SWF-02 FRB-02 TRSE-00 DRC-01

/207 W

----- 106571

P R 211215Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6179

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL UDORN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION USUN

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PHNOM 07046 02 OF 03 211526Z

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
CINCPAC
CINCPACFLT
CINCUSARPAC
DIA WASHDC
CGFMFPAC
CGUSARSUPTHAI
CNO
COMNAVINTCOM
COMSEVENTHFLT
COMUSMACTHAI
7/13 AF
7TH PSYOPS
COMUSSAG
III MAF
CINCPACAF

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 3 PHNOM PENH 7046

OTHER LYCESS REPORT ON-AGAIN-OFF-AGAIN ATTENDANCE, DEPENDING
UPON PRESS CONFERENCES OR BANNER UNFURLINGS.)

6. BY MAY 21 THREE DAILY NEWSPAPERS HAD MADE PRE-
PUBLICATION DEPOSITS REQUIRED BY A RECENTLY ISSUED GKR
PRESS DECREE WHICH FOLLOWED PARLIAMENT'S MAY 13 DECISION
TO PERMIT INDEPENDENT DAILIES TO RESUME PUBLICATION. THE
NEW DECREE AMPLIFIES THE 1972 PRESS LAW; IT PERMITS ONLY
SEVEN KHMER LANGUAGE DAILIES AND TEN KHMER LANGUAGE WEEKLIES
(AS AGAINST 25-30 BEFORE EMERGENCY LEGISLATION SUSPENDED
FREEDOM OF THE PRESS IN 1973). THE DECREE ALSO REQUIRES
THAT EACH NEW PUBLICATION MUST MAKE A DEPOSIT
OF 1.6 MILLION RIELS (4,000 DOLLARS AT THE OFFICIAL RATE OF
EXCHANGE). THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION IS GIVEN THE
AUTHORITY TO SUSPEND A PAPER ADMINISTRATIVELY FOR A MONTH;
FURTHER SUSPENSION OR CLOSING OF A PAPER REQUIRES COURT
ACTION. THE PUBLISHER'S FINAL RECOURSE UNDER THE DECREE
IS TO TAKE HIS CASE TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC.

POLITICAL (EXTERNAL)

7. ON MAY 15, A THREE-MAN GKR DELEGATION CONCLUDED A
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PHNOM 07046 02 OF 03 211526Z

REASONABLY SUCCESSFUL FIVE-DAY VISIT TO JAKARTA. THE
DELEGATION, CHARGED WITH SMOOTHING THE WAY FOR UPCOMING
GKR RELIGIOUS AND DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS TO MUSLIM COUNTRIES,
BENEFITTED GREATLY FROM ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE

INDONESIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY AND FOREIGN MINISTER MALIK HIMSELF. THE SAUDI ARABIAN AND IRANIAN EMBASSIES, ESPECIALLY THE FORMER, SEEMED RECEPTIVE TO GKR APPROACHES.

8. THE STATEMENT IN LAST WEEK'S KHMER REPORT THAT THE NEWLY ACCREDITED GUATEMALAN AMBASSADOR TO THE GKR WILL BE RESIDENT IN PHNOM PENH WAS IN ERROR. THE AMBASSADOR IS IN FACT RESIDENT IN TOKYO.

GRUNK/FUNK

9. AFTER VISITING ELEVEN COUNTRIES OVER NEARLY A TWO-MONTH PERIOD, KC LEADER KHIEU SAMPHAN'S GRUNK/FUNK DELEGATION IS BACK ON FAMILIAR GROUND. THEY COMPLETED STOPS IN EGYPT AND SYRIA DURING THE WEEK, THEN WENT DIRECTLY TO SINKIANG FROM DAMASCUS ON MAY 17. THEY RETURNED TO PEKING ON MAY 20 WHERE THEY WERE WELCOMED BY GRUNK PRIME MINISTER PENN NOUTH (BUT NOT SINANOUK) AS WELL AS BY DIPLOMATS FROM MOST OF THE COUNTRIES THEY HAD JUST VISITED. THEY ARE NOW CONTINUING "THEIR OFFICIAL FRIENDLY VISIT TO CHINA". (COMMENT: THE TRIP HAS UNDOUBTEDLY BEEN A SUCCESS FROM THE KC POINT OF VIEW, SERVING AS IT DID, THE DUAL PURPOSE OF PUSHING KHIEU SAMPHAN AND HIS IN-COUNTRY MOVEMENT MORE TO THE INTERNATIONAL FOREFRONT WHILE, AT THE SAME TIME, FURTHER REDUCING SIHANOUK'S INTERNATIONAL STATURE. THE SEEMINGLY ABRUPT TERMINATION OF THE TOUR IS SOMEWHAT CURIOUS, HOWEVER, IN THAT THERE WERE OTHER COUNTRIES THE DELEGATION COULD LOGICALLY HAVE BEEN EXPECTED TO VISIT (SUCH AS PAKISTAN) BUT DID NOT.)

10. THE VISITS TO CAIRO AND DAMASCUS FOLLOWED THE PATTERN OF PREVIOUS ONES. KHIEU SAMPHAN WAS RECEIVED BY PRESIDENTS SADAT AND EL-ASAD, WITH THE SYRIAN PRESIDENT REQUESTING THAT HIS GREETINGS BE CONVEYED TO SIHANOUK. IN HIS SPEECHES, SAMPHAN CONTINUED HIS RECENT TOUGHER LINE ON NEGOTIATIONS (SEE LAST WEEK'S KHMER REPORT), WHILE THE OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE CONTINUED TO REFLECT CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 PHNOM 07046 02 OF 03 211526Z

EACH SIDE'S DUTIFUL SUPPORT OF THE OTHER'S PIECE OF THE ACTION AGAINST THE "FORCES OF IMPERIALISM, COLONIALISM AND NEO-COLONIALISM".

11. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, SIHANOUK CHIMED IN FROM PEKING TO SAY THAT UNITY WITHIN GRUNK/FUNK IS CLOSER THAN EVER, AND "THE SO-CALLED FREE WORLD CAN GIVE UP ALL HOPES OF SEEING US QUARRELING AMONG OURSELVES". IN THE JOINT CABLE INTERVIEW WITH SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS, SIHANOUK ALSO PREDICTED THAT "FINAL VICTORY" WILL COME BEFORE 1975. HE HEDGED THIS ASSENTION, HOWEVER, BY

SAYING THAT FURTHER DELAYS WOULD NOT BE SURPRISING BECAUSE THE KC ARE "NOT FIGHTING AGAINST A HANDFUL OF TRAITORS, BUT AGAINST THE U.S.A, THE MOST POWERFUL NATION IN THE WORLD". IN THE COURSE OF DISCUSSING THE SAMPHAN TRIP, THE PRINCE SAID THAT GRUNK HAS AN 80 PERCENT CHANCE OF WINNING A "DECISIVE VICTORY" AT THE UNGA THIS YEAR.

12. THE SOVIET PRESS IS CONTINUING AND ESCALATING SOME-WHAT THE LEVEL OF ITS RHETORIC ON CAMBODIA (SEE LAST WEEK'S KHMER REPORT). THE SOVIET ARMY DAILY RED START IN A RECENT ARTICLE COMMENTED MORE DIRECTLY AND CRITICALLY THAN BEFORE ON ALLEGED DIRECT U.S. PARTICIPATION IN MILITARY ACTIONS IN CAMBODIA, AS WELL AS THE CONTROLLING ROLE PLAYED BY THE EMBASSY. FROM PEKING, THE NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY (NCNA) ALSO EDITORIALIZED ON CAMBODIA, RATIONALIZING THE KC'S EARLIER DRY SEASON FAILURES AROUND PHNOM PENH BY DESCRIBING KC STRATEGY AS "HIGHLY MOBILE AND FLEXIBLE". NCNA WENT ON TO THREATEN THAT "SO LONG AS THE ENEMY REFUSED TO SURRENDER, THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE WILL FIGHT IT THROUGH TO THE VERY END".

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PHNOM 07046 03 OF 03 211516Z

51

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 OMB-01 AID-20 CIAE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 CU-04 NIC-01 EB-11 IO-14 ARA-16

IGA-02 COME-00 AGR-20 SWF-02 FRB-02 TRSE-00 DRC-01

/207 W

----- 106424

P R 211215Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6180

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMEMBASSY SAIGON
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
USIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL UDORN
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USMISSION USUN
AMCONSUL CAN THO
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PHNOM 07046 03 OF 03 211516Z

CINCPAC
CINCPACFLT
CINCUSARPAC
DIA WASHDC
CGFMFPAC
CGUSARSUPTHAI
CNO
COMNAVINTCOM
COMSEVENTHFLT
COMUSMACTHAI
7/13 AF
7TH PSYOPS
COMUSSAG
III MAF
CINCPACAF

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 3 PHNOM PENH 7046

ECONOMIC

13. ON MAY 16, THE 10TH AMENDMENT TO THE CURRENT PL 480 AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED WITH THE GKR. THE AMENDMENT PROVIDES AN ADDITIONAL 20,000 TONS OF RICE, BRINGING THE TOTAL RICE FIGURE TO 285,000 TONS FOR FY 74. ON THE SAME DATE, THE US PLEDGED A DEPOSIT OF \$620,000 TO THE EXCHANGE SUPPORT FUND (ESF), BRINGING THE US CONTRIBUTION FOR FY 74 TO \$13.1 MILLION.

14. PRICE MOVEMENTS DURING THE WEEK OF MAY 13 WERE MIXED. BATTAMBANG RICE DECREASED 12 PERCENT TO 24,600 RIELS PER 100 KILOS. OCEAN AND FRESH WATER FISH PRICES DECLINED 10 PERCENT, BUT DRIED FISH SHOT UP 33 PERCENT. PORK, BEEF AND DUCK PRICES WERE UNCHANGED, WHILE CHICKEN INCREASED 4 PERCENT. MOST FRUIT PRICES REMAINED UNCHANGED, WHILE VEGETABLES PRICES WERE MIXED. (FLUCTUATIONS IN VEGETABLE AND FRUIT PRICES ARE MOSTLY SEASONAL IN NATURE. PRICE CHANGES IN MEAT, FISH AND RICE, HOWEVER, ARE SUPPLY ORIENTED.) THE BLACK MARKET RATE PER DOLLAR REMAINED AT 760 RIELS.

15. A MEKONG CONVOY CARRYING 9.8 THOUSAND METRIC TONS OF RICE ARRIVED ON MAY 15. ON MAY 20, RICE STOCKS IN PHNOM PENH
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PHNOM 07046 03 OF 03 211516Z

REACHED 55 THOUSAND M/T OR AN 85-DAY SUPPLY AT THE OFFICIAL DISTRIBUTION RATE OF 650 M/T PER DAY. THE ACTUAL RICE DISTRIBUTION FIGURE FOR PHNOM PENH FOR THE WEEK ENDING MAY 20 ROSE TO 862 M/T PER DAY AS COMPARED WITH A 686 M/T AVERAGE FOR THE PERIOD MAY 1-19. THIS SHARP INCREASE IS DUE PARTLY TO THE FACT THAT THE ENTIRE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM FOR THE CITY WAS OFFICIALLY TRANSFERRED TO OFFICE NATIONALE DE COOPERATION (OFFINACO) ON MAY 15; IN ADDITION, THE PRECEDING WEEK INCLUDED TWO HOLIDAYS ON WHICH NO DISTRIBUTION WAS MADE.

16. THE IMPROVED SECURITY SITUATION AT KOMPONG THOM PERMITTED THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES TO RESUME OPERATIONS ON MAY 19. THE PROVINCE GOVERNOR HAD TEMPORARILY HALTED THEIR OPERATIONS THE WEEK BEFORE. (SEE LAST WEEK'S KHMER REPORT).

MILITARY

17. THERE WAS A GENERAL REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER AND INTENSITY OF BOTH FANK AND KHMER COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES DURING THE WEEK. FANK MADE NOTEWORTHY GAINS ALONG RTE 5 NORTH OF PHNOM PENH AND AT KOMPONG THOM, WHILE CONTINUING TO HOLD FIRM AT PREY VENG. COMMUNIST FORCES FURTHER IMPROVED THEIR CONTROL OVER MOST OF RTE 4 SOUTHWEST OF KOMPONG SPEU, RECORDED THEIR BEST RECENT RESULTS IN AN ATTACK ON A MEKONG CONVOY, AND ROCKETED THE CAPITAL AREA FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OVER A MONTH.

18. MOVING NORTHWEST ALONG RTE 5, 22 KM NORTH OF PHNOM PENH, FANK 7TH DIVISION AND 5TH BRIGADE FORCES BROKE THROUGH STIFF RESISTANCE AND ADVANCED 5-6 KM. THIS MOVEMENT BY-PASSED ALL ENEMY BARRICADES ACROSS THE TONLE SAP RIVER AND ENABLED NAVAL FORCES TO DESTROY THE OBSTACLES. THIS BREAK-THROUGH APPEARED TO HAVE ACHIEVED FANK'S GOAL OF CAUSING THE COMMUNISTS TO DIVERT SOME OF THEIR FORCES FROM THE LOVEK AREA IN ORDER TO MEET FANK'S THRUST FROM THE SOUTH. COMMUNIST

PRESSURE ON LOVEK WAS SIGNIFICANTLY DOWN LAST WEEK.

19. IN THE PHNOM PENH AREA, COMMUNIST FORCES ON THE EAST BANK OF THE MEKONG CONTINUED TO INCREASE PRESSURE AGAINST THE STATIC DEFENSES OF THE FANK PARA BRIGADE; NEITHER SIDE, HOWEVER, GAINED OR LOST GROUND. ON APRIL 20, COMMUNIST
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 PHNOM 07046 03 OF 03 211516Z

GUNNERS FIRED FIVE 122MM ROCKETS WHICH FELL IN PHNOM PENH'S NORTHERN SUBURBAN AREA CAUSING NO DAMAGE.

20. FURTHER TO THE SOUTH ALONG THE MEKONG, A SLIGHT INCREASE IN COMMUNIST ACTION WAS NOTED IN THE BANAM-NEAK LUONG AREA, AND ON 15 MAY COMMUNIST ELEMENTS FIRED ON SIX VESSELS IN AN UP-RIVER CONVOY. ONE NAVAL CRAFT AND THREE CONVOY VESSELS RECEIVED NO DAMAGE. TWO CONVOY VESSELS RECEIVED EXTENSIVE DAMAGE; ALL VESSELS EVENTUALLY ARRIVED IN PHNOM PENH.

21. AT PREY VENG, COMMUNIST FORCES SEEMED SATISFIED TO MARK THEIR PRESENCE WITH ATTACKS BY FIRE AND LIGHT GROUND ACTIONS. DEFENDING FANK FORCES EXPERIENCED NO DIFFICULTIES IN MAINTAINING THEIR POSITIONS. THE COMMUNISTS MADE A STILL POORER SHOWING AT THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF KOMPONG THOM WHERE A WELL EXECUTED FANK COUNTER-ATTACK AGAINST ENEMY UNITS ON THE SOUTH FORCED THE ENEMY TO WITHDRAW, THEREBY ASSURING FURTHER DELAY IN ANY MAJOR ACTION AGAINST THE CITY. OTHER ENEMY INITIATIVES AT KOMPONG THOM WERE LIMITED TO LIGHT ATTACKS BY FIRE AND PERITER PROBES.

22. COMMUNIST FORCES MAINTAINED THEIR RECENT SUCCESSFUL MOMENTUM ALONG THE SOUTHERN HALF OF RTE 4. AT THE WEEK'S END, FANK FORCES WERE ISOLATED AT DAS KAN CHOR AND KOMPONG SIELA, WITH HEAVY PRESSURE REPORTED ON THE LATTER POSITION. THESE TWO ENCLAVES CONSTITUTE THE ONLY FANK PRESENCE ALONG THE APPROXIMATELY 120 KILOMETER SECTION OF HIGHWAY BETWEEN MOHA SANG IN THE NORTH AND A POSITION ABOUT 4 KILOMETERS WEST OF O CHAMNA IN THE SOUTH. INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE COMMUNIST FORCES WILL INCREASE THEIR ACTIVITY AGAINST THE ENCIRCLED POSITIONS IN THE NORTH AND, FOR THE TIME BEING, BE SATISFIED WITH HARRASSING OPERATIONS IN THE MARITIME AREA OF KAMPOT, KOMPONG SOM AND REAM. FANK REINFORCEMENTS FROM KAMPOT REMAINED IN A DEFENSIVE POSTURE IN THE REAM AREA AND MADE NO EFFORT TO MOVE NORTHWARD ALONG ROUTE 4.
DEAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PFOR
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PHNOM07046
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740529/aaaaayyr.tel
Line Count: 541
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 10
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 APR 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <24-Sep-2002 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KHMER REPORT- MAY 21, 1974 GENERAL
TAGS: PINT, PINS, MOPS, ECON, CB
To: SECSTATE WASHDC BANGKOK CANBERRA COPENHAGEN JAKARTA HONG KONG KUALA LUMPUR LONDON
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005